(f) since competition is not ensured in auctions, whether Government are considering to liberalise this auction system allowing 50 per cent of sales outside auctions similar to coffee auctions; and

(g) if not, the reasons with what special steps Government are taking to ensure that Cigarette manufacturers/exporters pay proper prices to farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Though STC had announced its intention to enter the market, it could not do so. It is a fact the STC lacks infrastructural support to make sizeable purchases and in a situation of huge over-production, small purchases by STC at the auctions would not have made much impact on prices.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Crop marketed and average price are given below :

Year	Crop marketed (M.Kgs.)	Av. Price (Rs. /kgs.)
1991	89.16	33.00
1992	132.78	27.63
1993	125.62	20.74

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Allowing 50 per cent sales quota outside auction floors is not contemplated since:

(i) subject to market forces (of demand and supply), auction system ensures maximum competition and hence better prices.

(ii) Past experience shows that growers were subjected no exploitation before introduction of auction system.

(iii) Due to above reasons growers themselves want their tobacco to be sold on Board's auctions floors.

Auction prices depend on demand-supply situation. However Government takes the following steps to ensure better prices for farmers :

(i) Meetings are held at the Tobacco Board and Government level with traders and manufacturers requesting them to pay better prices.

(ii) Trade is persuaded to declare Minimum Guaranteed Price (MGP) for each marketing season.

(iii) Government/Board takes up export promotion measures to motivate the trade to pay better prices.

AVERAGE COST OF PRODUCTION OF BLACK SOILS

2375. DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the average cost of production of tobacco per Acre in South Black Soils, Central Black Soils, North Black Soils and South Light Soils in Andhra Pradesh in 1992-93 and per acres gross and net returns in these four acres for 1993 marketing seasons ;

(b) what is the total net income of a Tobacco farmer from holding of seven acres of Tobacco Crop in the above said zones in 1993 ; and

(c) whether the net returns for the farmer are sufficient to meet/maintain his family ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Information for the year 1992-93 is given below :

Soil region	Average cost of production (Rs./Acre)	Gross Return (Rs. Acre)	Net Return (Rs./Acr)	Net return from holding of 7 acres. (Rs.)
Southern Black Soils	8,544	11,114	2,600	18,200
Northern Black Soils	8,768	9,031	263	1,841
Central Black Soils	9,072	9,633	561	3,927
Southern Light Soils	4,640	6,267	1,627	11,389

(Source : Tobacco Board)

(c) This is subjective and would depend on the family size, standard of the living and size of holding.

PESTISIDE RESIDUES IN TOBACCO

2376. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign customers complained that Indian Tobacco and other Agriculture Commodities contain pesticides residues of DDT and BHC;

(b) if so, what steps the Tobacco Board is taking to tackle this problem at farmers level ; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban import of DDT and curb use of Pesticides that contain materials similar to DDT and BHC on the crops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps being taken by the Tobacco Board :—

(I) Tobacco farmers are being advised :

(1) Through circulation of leaflets, not to use the prohibited pesticides like B.H.C., D.D.T. and other chlorinated hydrocarbons.

(2) Not to rotate tobacco with crops like cotton, chillies where large quantities of pesticides are under usage.

(3) Not to grow tobacco in fields close to crops like cotton, chillies etc

(4) Not to use contaminated gunny packing material for bringing tobacco to auction floors.

(II) Undertaking periodical analysis of samples and taking corrective steps.

(III) Exploring the possibility of using malathion instead of DDT for mosquito control in some tribal tobacco growing areas.

(c) It is planned to phase out use of pesticides which are unsafe.